

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
JONESBORO DIVISION**

JOHN LEE CRAIG,

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Plaintiff,

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vs.

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CAROLYN W. COLVIN,

No. 3:12CV00076-JJV

Acting Commissioner,

*

Social Security Administration

*

*

Defendant.

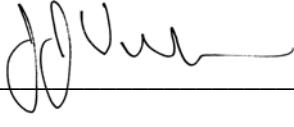
ORDER

Before the Court is Plaintiff's Application for Attorney's Fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412. Plaintiff's counsel requests \$3,888.00, representing 21.6 attorney hours at \$180 an hour. The Commissioner responded and objects to the fees requested. The Commissioner believes counsel should be awarded \$165 an hour and explains in her Response how she comes to that conclusion. However, the Court is perplexed why the Commissioner objects to \$180 an hour in *this* case when the Commissioner routinely considers an hourly rate of \$181 to be "reasonable." See e.g., *Davis v. Astrue*, 2:12-CV-00121; *Collins v. Astrue*, 1:09-CV-00026; *Alley v. Astrue*, 3:10-CV-00265; *Ford v. Astrue*, 3:11-CV-00002; *George v. Astrue*, 2:10-CV-00204; *Propes v. Astrue*, 3:11-CV-00049.

Therefore, after careful consideration of the Motion and Response, the Court finds:

1. The hours spent by counsel were reasonable. Therefore the Court approves attorney fees in the amount of \$3,888.00 (21.6 attorney hours at \$180.00).
2. The award of EAJA fees shall be paid in accordance with *Astrue v. Ratliff*, --- U.S. ----, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 2527, 2010 WL 2346547 (2010).
3. Defendant shall certify said award and pay Plaintiff's attorney this amount.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 6th day of August, 2013.


JOE J. VOLPE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE